



Lady Liberty Academy Charter School

Structure | Peace | Accountability | Results | Community

S.P.A.R.C. ignites the academic flame of empowerment that lights our path to a better future.

September 30, 2016

Dear Lady Liberty Academy Parents/Guardians,

Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6.6*, beginning fall 2016, school districts and charter schools must, by October 1st of each year, provide parents or guardians certain information on any state assessment or commercially-developed standardized assessment that will be administered in that school year. For the 2016-2017 school year, Lady Liberty Academy will be administering the following assessments, which are both state and commercially developed:

- Renaissance Learning
- PARCC Diagnostic
- PARCC
- Units of Study Writing Prompt
- DRA2
- NJ ASK Science

Attached you will find a copy of the 2016-2017 Assessment Schedule. This schedule includes information on which assessments are being administered, the duration of the assessment, the dates for the administration of the assessment and also information on how and when the student and his/her parent or guardian can access student results.

As part of the Lady Liberty Academy community, you play an important role in preparing your child for these assessments. Please have your child in school each day of testing. Students perform best when they have had a nutritionally balanced breakfast and a restful night's sleep. Additionally, please participate in our periodic parent workshops to learn more about each of these assessments. Your support and encouragement can also go a long way to set a positive tone for this test-taking situation.

On behalf on the Lady Liberty Academy Board of Trustees and staff, I thank you for your continued support in making this a positive experience for students.

Sincerely,

Ashaki E. Goodall
Executive Director

Attachment

Lady Liberty Academy Charter School - 2016-2017 Assessment Schedule

Assessment	Grades	What it Tests	How We Use It	Frequency & Test Dates/Time
Renaissance Learning (STARS) <i>Online assessment</i>	K-8	Mastery of specific Math and ELA Common Core standards	Baseline Screening Formative Assessment Progress monitoring tool	4 times a year Week of: 9/6, 11/14, 2/6, 4/3 Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
PARCC Diagnostic <i>Online assessment</i>	2-8	Mastery of specific Math and ELA Common Core Standards	End of Unit Study Formative Assessment	4 times a year Week of: 10/17, 12/5, 2/20, 3/13 Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Units of Study Writing Prompt	K-8	Specific writing skills and processes aligned to the Common Core	Formative Assessment Guide Instruction	3 times a year September, December, March Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
DRA2 <i>Online assessment</i>	K-5	Fluency, comprehension and accuracy in reading texts	Guide Instruction Formative Assessment Progress monitoring tool	3 times a year & as progress monitoring tool September, January, April Duration: 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 p.m.
Math Assessment (Dr. Rosado)	K-8	Mastery of skills, content and applications	Guide Instruction Formative Assessment Progress monitoring tool	January 18, 2017 (<i>tentatively</i>) Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
PARCC **State Assessment <i>Online assessment</i>	3-8	Reading, Writing & Mathematics	Summative Assessment Accountability Evaluation	March 27 th – May 19 th (testing window) Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
NJASK Science **State Assessment	4 th & 8 th	Science	Summative Assessment Accountability Evaluation	May 31, 2017 (<i>tentatively</i>) Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Ekwall Reading Test	K – 8 (IEP)	Performance on all critical reading skills	Baseline Screening Guide Instruction Progress monitoring	2 times a year Week of: 9/12/16 & 4/10/17 Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Key Math	K – 8 (IEP)	Essential mathematical concepts and skills. Basic Skills	Baseline Screening Guide Instruction Progress monitoring	2 times a year Week of: 9/12/16 & 4/10/17 Duration: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

*If a student is permitted extra time or any other accommodations by their IEP, parent/guardians should contact their guidance office for additional details on accommodations and accessibility options.



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Dear Lady Liberty Academy Parents/Guardians,

As you know, late last spring/early last summer, the Lady Liberty Academy Board of Trustees voted to discontinue the bus transportation service for students attending our school. This decision was not an easy one. The bus transportation was provided to accommodate our families during the period in which our school was located in Harrison, New Jersey. The intentions of the Board of Trustees had always been to discontinue this service once our school moved back home to the city of Newark.

The Lady Liberty Academy Board of Trustees and administrative staff understand that ceasing the bus transportation has been a major change for all parties --- students, parents, our faculty and staff, and the Vailsburg community in which we reside. We have heard from parents about the difficulty many of you are experiencing with the 7:40 a.m. student entry time. We understand that you are concerned about the safety and well-being of your student(s), and that the later entry time is causing a hardship for you as working parents. We are also keenly aware that the weather is changing, and we also want our students to remain healthy so that they are ready to learn.

To that end, **effective Monday, October 3, 2016, Lady Liberty Academy students who arrive at school prior to 7:40 a.m. will be allowed entry into the school beginning at 7:00 a.m.** Between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., students should enter through the Ivy Street entrance where they will be signed in as an early arrival student. Students will be supervised by a team of staff members and escorted to a designated place in which they will be expected to behave in an appropriate way, following all staff directions. Beginning at 7:30 a.m. students who have arrived early to school will be escorted to their classrooms. Students who arrive at or after 7:30 a.m. and before 8:05 a.m. will report immediately to their classrooms. Breakfast will continue to be served in the classrooms beginning at 7:40 a.m. each morning.

During this time in the morning, students are expected to: (a) read a book; (b) complete homework; and/or (c) participate in the activities such as board games that will be made available to them. Students are not to walk through the hallways and are expected to remain in the designated area(s). In the event that a student is unable to follow the instructions of the monitoring staff, parents may be notified that the student is unable to participate in this early arrival provided by the school.

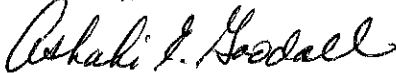
From October 3, 2016 through October 14, 2016, Lady Liberty Academy will monitor this early arrival process for any changes that may be necessary. Changes that may be implemented include: (a) completion of an early arrival agreement by the parent; and (b) notification that a reasonable weekly/monthly fee will be charged for participation in the program. We hope to be able to continue to provide this early arrival service at no cost to our families. However, depending on the number of families who consistently participate in this early arrival process and the time in which the students

arrive, we may need to consider charging a fee to cover the stipend provided to our staff who are working outside of their contractual work hours. A discussion of any potential fee to be charged will take place at Lady Liberty Academy's October 18, 2016, Board of Trustees meeting.

On behalf of the Lady Liberty Academy Board of Trustees and the administrative staff of the school, I want to thank you for your patience, suggestions, questions, and concerns, as we continue to work together to ensure our students receive the highest quality education possible.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence and/or its contents, please feel free to reach out directly to me, Ms. Goodall, at (973) 868-2426 or via email at agoodall@llacs.org. I will also be available during our upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences to speak with you about this new early arrival opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashaki E. Goodall".

Ashaki E. Goodall
Executive Director